ALKEN
CHECK LIST

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JOHN AND MARTHA DANIELS

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B O S T O N T R A N S C R I P T
324 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.

Wednesday, July 20, 1910.

ENGLISH SPORTING PRINTS

THE COLORED ENGRAVINGS OF HENRY ALKEN

An English Illustrator of Sporting Books and Periodicals Whose Work is in Great Demand Among Modern Collectors, but Whose History is for the Most Part a Mystery - A Checklist of the Work of this Early Eighteenth Century Master of Sporting Engraving.

Within recent years the interest in colored sporting prints has been so great that several books have been devoted to the subject, and the works of the sporting artists of the early part of the nineteenth century have risen to high prices in the auction room. Of these illustrators, Cruikshank, Rowlandson and Alken stand in the first rank. Reid has written fully of Cruikshank's work, and Grego leaves little for the collector of Rowlandson prints to discover. Of Henry Alken, however, there has been no adequate biography. Leslie Stephen, in his monumental work, gives 1816-1831 as the dates of Alken's productive activity and repeats the story that he was "a huntsman, studgroom or trainer to the Duke of Beaufort."

Recent investigations, however, show that Henry Alken was born in Suffolk in 1787 and died in 1851. He was the nephew of an engraver, Samuel Alken, who died in 1825. When Alken issued his first work he was probably a teacher of drawing. He had two sons, Henry Gordon and George, both of whom were engravers, and both of whom lived to a great age. Henry Gordon Alken was a conscious imitator of his father's work, and much of that attributed to Henry Alken may have been done by him. Others, notably Reynardson and Harris, engraved plates after Alken. The collector, therefore, must not accept too readily the dealer's assertion "Plates by Alken" as meaning Henry Alken's work. An excellent study of Alken's genius as an engraver is given in Martin Hardie's "English Coloured Prints."

1785

Alken's first publishers were S. & J. Fuller at the "Temple of Fancy," a house in Rathbone place, London, devoted to the publishing and sale of sporting books and prints. Thomas McLean, 26 Haymarket, shared with them Alken's work until 1821. The doubtful "Egan" books, "Real Life in London" and "Real Life in Ireland," 1821-22, were published by Jones & Co., but McLean had all the rest of Alken's work until 1825, with the exception of that done for the "Annals of Sporting," published by Sherwood, Neely & Jones, included in no less than twenty-six volumes.

In 1825 the demand for Alken's work became so great that he supplied plates not only to McLean and Sherwood, Jones & Company, but to J. Dickinson, R. Ackerman, Sherwood, Gilbert & Piper, G. Tilt, H. Dawe, T.Hurst, John Murray and others in London, and Adam & Charles Black, Edinburgh.

The list given below is founded on researches made in this country and England by the late L. H. Chubbuck, whose Alken collection was a large one. It is believed to embrace practically all the books and periodicals in which Alken's work occurs, and has never before been published. To collectors of sporting prints it should be of great value:

THE ALKEN CHECK LIST

wrappers

Qualified Horses and Unqualified Hunters. London, 1815, obl. folio, wrappers, ~~19~~ 7, per Tooley colored plates by Alken.

contemporary binding uncolored titlepage

The Beauties and Defects in the Figure of the Horse. London, (1816). Royal 8vo. bds. 18 colored illustrations and cover design.

Shooting Discoveries. London: 1916. Obl. 4to: 6 colored plates.

Rebound, no wrappers bound in

Hunting Discoveries. London: 1817. Obl. folio: 7 colored plates.

Fox Hunting Discoveries. London: 1817. Obl. folio: 6 colored plates.

Riding Discoveries. London: 1817. Obl. folio:7 colored plates.

Rebound — no wrappers bound in

A Series of Driving Discoveries. London, 1817. Obl. folio, 7 colored plates.

Coloured Sporting Sketch Book. London, 1817, obl. folio, bds. Frontispiece and forty-eight plates.

Military Discoveries. London, 1819. Obl. folio, 7 colored plates.

Wrappers

How to Qualify for a Meltonian. London, 1819. Obl. folio, 6 colored plates.

Human Life. London (1820). Panorama about 15 feet long, wound on cylinder, with design and title, 31 colored etchings.

Illustrations for Landscape Scenery. London, 1820-21. Six parts, obl. 4to in wrappers, 24 colored plates.

Hints to the Purchasers of Horses. London, 1820, 12 mo., bds. Front and back covers each have three outlines after Alken.

Alken's Sketch Book. London, 1820. Obl. 8vo. 42 colored plates.

Old British Sports. London, 1820. 4to, 4 colored plates.

contemporary morocco binding

The National Sports of Great Britain. London, 1820. Imp. folio, 50 colored plates. (a second issue in 1821)

modern red morocco title page dtd 1825.

Scraps from the Sketch Book of Henry Alken. London, 1821, 4to, bds. with label, 43 colored plates.

Equestrian Sketches. London, 1821. Obl. 4to in wrappers, 6 colored plates.

Real Life in London. London, 1821-22. 14 parts or 2 vols. 8vo, 34 colored plates.

These should include "Catching a Charley Napping" and "St. Georges Day," often wanting.

Real Life in Ireland. London, 1821. 8vo. Plates by Alken, F. Heath and others.

Also large paper copies in royal 8vo. pictorial bds. same date.

Specimens of Riding Near London. London, 1821. 3 pts., obl. folio, wrappers. 18 plates.

Annals of Sporting and Fancy Gazette. London, 1822-28. 13 vos., 8vo, issued monthly in wrappers 150 plates by Alken. R. Cruikshank and others, of which 50 are colored.

Fashion and Folly. London, 1822. 8vo. pictorial wrappers, 34 colored plates after Alken and others.

Sporting Dogs. London, 1822. Obl. 8vo., 6 plates and wrappers.

Sketches of Cattle. London, 1822. Obl. 4to.

The Sporting Repository. London, 1822. Royal 8vo. 19 aquatints. colored by hand.

Moments of Fancy. London, 1822. Obl. folio, wrappers, front. and 12 colored plates.

Symptoms of Being Amused. London, 1822. Obl. 4to, bds, calf back, label on side, forty-three colored plates, including pictorial title.

A second volume was begun, but only twelve plates were pub. These are almost unknown, and not included in above forty-three.

Illustrations to Popular Songs. London, 1822-26. 7 parts, obl. folio, 42 colored plates. (1st issue 1822, Then 1823, 25, 26, 31, 7 parts)

The Mail Coach. London (1822?). Folio, colored plates.

A Cockney's Shooting Season in Suffolk London, 1822. Small folio, in printed wrapper, 6 colored plates.

Rudiments for Drawing the Horse. London, 1822. Obl. 4to. 26 colored plates.

orig. boards

New Sketch Book. London, [1823.] Obl. 4to, printed boards, 40 plates. (B/W)

Tutor's Assistant. London, 1823. Obl. folio, 6 colored plates.

Wrappers

Comparative Meltonians. London, 1823. Folio, 6 colored plates.

Red morocco a portion of front wrapper only bound in

Hunting. London, 1823. Folio, ~~12~~ 6 per T. Sotheby colored plates.

Fox Hunting. London (1823?). Royal folio, 4 colored plates with many scenes and portraits, in portfolio.

Sporting Designs. London, 182~~3~~4. Royal 4to, in printed wrapper, 30 colored plates.

Shooting. London, 1823. Obl. folio, 6 colored plates.

Involuntary Thoughts. London, 1823. Obl. 4to. 8 colored plates.

Sporting Medallions. London (1823?). 8vo. 24 colored plates, in imitation of drawings, on drawing boards.

Rural and Sporting Sketches. London (1823?). 8vo, 6 colored plates.

The Melange of Humour. London, 1823. Folio, 30 colored plates by Alken and others.

Flowers from Nature, 1824. Obl. 4to. Printed gray wrapper, 6 colored plates by "Peter Pasquin."

History . . . of . . . Events Connected with the Murder of Mr. Weare. London, 1824. 8vo, bds., 3 colored plates.

Tutor's Assistant; Involuntary Thoughts; New Symptoms. London, 1824. Oblong 4to, 26 plates of over 100 subjects.

The first and second items were issued in 1823. The third was intended as a comtinuation of "Symptoms of Being Amused." 1823, but was discontinued after 12 plates were issued. Bound in printed wrapper which calls for 24 plates only.

Seven Ages of Man. London, 1824. Obl. folio, in wrapper, 7 colored plates.

Drawing Books. London, 1824. Obl. folio, 6 colored plates.

A Touch at the Fine Arts. London, 1824. Imp., 8vo, front. and 12 colored plates.

Also large paper copies in roy. 8vo. same date.

Humorous Illustrations of the British Proverbs. London, 1824. Obl. folio, wrapper, 6 colored plates.

Alken's Scrap Book. London, 1824. Obl. 4to, cloth, roan back, with label, 20 plates, issued both plain and colored.

Sporting Scrap Book. London (1824). ~~Obl. folio~~ 4to, 50 colored plates.

A Few Ideas. London, 1825. Folio, printed wrapper, 6 colored plates.

The Seven Ages of the Horse. London, 1825. Obl. 4to, 7 colored illusts.

The National Sports of Great Britain. London, 1825. Cloth, 4to, 50 colored plates.

The plates differ entirely from those in the folio edition of same title, 1820.

Sporting Anecdotes. London, 1825. 8vo, boards. First edition illustrated by Alken and R. Cruikshank.

Sketch Book. London, 1826. Obl. 4to, 42 colored plates.

Characteristic Sketches of Shooting. London, 1826. Obl. 4to, wrapper with label, 12 colored plates.

The Steeple Chase. London: 1827. Obl. folio; 6 colored plates.

A Few Ideas Caught on Easter Monday. London, 1828. Sm. folio, wrapper. Six colored plates.

New Book of Sporting Dogs. London, 1828. 2 parts, obl. roy. 8vo, wrappers.

The Illustrated Game Book. London (1828). Obl. 4to, eng. title and border to each page.

Panorama of a Fox Hunt. London, 1828. Obl. 8vo, col. lithograph, 11 feet long, folding into obl. 8vo, in bds., with colored eng. of "The Death" on front.

Country Evening. London, 1829. 4to, 6 colored plates.

The Groom's Oracle. London, 1829. Post 8vo, bds. with label. Colored front, by Alken.

The Grand Leicestershire Steeple Chase. London, 1830. Folio, 8 colored plates.

Characteristic Sketches of Gigs and Their Drivers. London (1830). Obl. 4to, bds, with gilt printed label, 6 colored plates.

Sporting Ideas. London, 1830, obl. 4to, bds, with label, 42 colored plates.

The High Mettled Racer. London, 1830. Obl. 4to, bds. 6 colored plates with eng. verse under each.

Illustrations of Don Quixote. London, 1831. Folio, wrapper. 9 plates after Alken, including vignette title.

Also large paper copies, same date.

Sporting Notions. London (1832). Obl. folio, 36 colored plates.

Sporting Satirist. London, 1834. Royal 8vo, 4 colored lithographs in pictorial wrapper.

Partridge Shooting. London: 1835. Obl. folio; 4 colored plates by C. Bentley after Alken.

On paper with watermark of 1828.

Hunting Recollections. London. N. D. Obl. folio; 6 colored plates.

Helps and Hints how to Protect Life and Property. London, 1835. 8vo. bds. Illust. in part by Alken.

Memoirs of the Life of the Late John Mytton. London. 1835. 8vo. Illust. by Alken on pp. 11, 12, 14 (2), 15 (2), 16, 17, 18, 24, 27 and 76.

Two of the plates "Blood and the Bull-Dog" and "Mytton and the Savage Doy" were not reproduced in later editions.

The Gretna Green Bolt-a. London, 1836. Obl. imp. 8vo, wrapper. Front. by Alken on same. (Printed on pink paper.)

Memoirs of the ---- Late John Mytton. London, 1837. 8vo, 18 plates.

Eng title colored in some copies. Six additional plates were drawn for this edn.

The Chace, the Turf and the Road. London, 1837. 8vo, 13 plates, colored in some copies.

British Manly Exercises. London, 1838. 12mo. Front. by Alken.

Sporting Review. London, 1839-1842. 8 vols. 8vo. Colored plates.

Sporting Scenes and Country Characters. London, 1840. Sq. 8vo. Ill. by Alken and others.

Blaine's Encyclopaedia of Rural Sports. London, 1840. 8vo. 600 cuts after Alken, Landseer and others.

A Suit of Armor. London (1840). Post 8vo. gilt pictorial cloth. 15 plates.

Notitia Venatica. London, 1841. Imp. 8vo, 8 colored plates and cuts in text.

Cracks of the Day. London (1841.) Imp. 8vo. 10 parts. 36 plates and 19 water-colors by Alken and others.

The Sporting Sketch Book. London, 1842. 8vo. Ill. by Alken and others.

The Horse and the Hound. Edinburgh, 1842. Crown 8vo. Colored plates.

The Life of a Sportsman. London, 1842. 8vo, blue cloth, 36 colored ills. and colored engr. title.

Reprint of same date issued in red cloth.

The Horse and the Hound. Edinburgh, 1843. Post 8vo, 4 plates.

Book of Sports. London, 1843. 2 vols., 4to. 100 plates after Alken, Landseer and others.

Jorrock's Jaunts and Jollities. London, 1843. 8vo, green cloth. 15 colored ills. Colored eng. title.

Hunting Reminiscences. London, 1843. Royal 8vo. 32 plates and maps by Alken and others.

Pictorial Gallery of English Race Horses. London, 1844. Imp. 8vo. Pictorial title by Alken and 75 plates after Alken, Cooper and others.

The Analysis of the Hunting Field. London, 1846. Royal 8vo. Pictorial cloth. 7 plates and 43 cuts.

Life of a Racehorse. London, 1848. Obl. 4to. 6 colored plates.

Steeple Chase Scenes. London, 1848. Folio. 6 colored plates.

The Art and Practice of Etching. London, 1849. Square 8vo. Front. and 8 plates, sometimes colored.

Pictorial Gallery of English Race Horses. London, 1850. Royal 8vo. 90 illusts., after Alken, Cooper and others.

Hunting Accomplishments. London, 1850. Obl. folio, boards. 6 colored plates.

Hunting Casualties. London, 1870. Folio, 6 colored plates.

Memoires . . . of John Mytton. London, 1851. Royal 8vo., cloth cover design and 18 colored plates.

The Race and the Road, London (1851). Obl. 8vo, pictorial bds., colored folding plate eight feet long.

Epsom National Derby Day. London, (1851). Boards designed by Alken. Colored folding plate eight feet long.

The Training of Cavalry Remount Horses. London, 1852, 8vo, 20 plates.

The Funeral Procession of Arthur, Duke of Wellington. London, 1853. Obl. 8vo, in red cloth case. Colored folding panoramic view about 60 feet long by 5¼ inches wide.

G. A. Sela, early in life an engraver, worked on this with Alken.

Sketches. London (1854). Obl. folio, in wrapper. 6 colored plates.

Alken Sporting Prints. London: 1856. Obl. folio; wrappers; 6 colored plates.

Hunting Sketches. London, 1859. Folio, 6 colored plates.

Down the Road. London, 1875. 8vo, eng. title. 12 colored plates after Alken, by C. T. S. Birch Reynardson.

Annals of the Road. London, 1876. 8vo, red pictorial cloth, 8vo, colored plates after Alken.

History of Steeplechasing. London, 1891. Colored plates after Alken.

The Quorn Hunt and its Masters. London, 1891. Plates after Alken.

The Life and Death of John Mytton, London, 1899. Superroyal. 8vo. 20 colored plates.

Two of the twenty plates were never before reproduced and two others appeared only in the original parts. Some large paper copies were issued with the same date.

Jorrock's Jaunts and Jollities. London, 1900. Superroyal, 8vo. 20 colored plates by Alken; 10 after "Phiz" and 9 illusts. in text.

Also large paper ed. 90 copies, duplicate impressions of plates, handmade paper, with illusts. on Whatman. Has 6 extra plates by Alken, two of which, though originally drawn for the work, were never before reproduced.

"The Bibliographer"